

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH February 9, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Maia-Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Mark Rafanelli, and Robert Bollengier. Member Valerie Zuercher arrived at 7:02 p.m. Member Mary Walsh arrived at 7:12 p.m. Gregory Coutcher; Clerk was absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar, and Student Member Raymond Moore were present.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member Rafanelli read the District Mission Statement.

Member Zuercher arrived at this time, (7:02 a.m.).

Open Forum – None

Recognitions/Achievements – Town Sergeant Richard Brown and Constable Scote Miller – Superintendent Geismar called Exeter Town

Sergeant Richard Brown and Constable Scote Miller forward for recognition. Dr. Geismar said that Sergeant Brown and Constable Miller volunteered their services to police the H1N1 School-Based Vaccination Clinics at Metcalf and Wawaloam Schools. On behalf of the School Committee, Administrators, teachers, students, and parents, Dr. Geismar expressed appreciation for their assistance in ensuring peaceful, calm, well-run clinics. On behalf of the School Committee, Chair DeSack offered thanks and presented Sergeant Brown and Constable Miller with recognition awards. Sergeant Brown told the committee that his father served on the School Committee for 30-years. He presented each member with a copy of the Annual Report of the School Committee and Superintendent of Schools of the Town of Exeter, RI for the School Year Ending April 30, 1915.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Raymond Moore informed the School Committee that senior high Student Council members will present at the next regular School Committee meeting regarding the grading system. Additionally, Student Member Moore reported that there is a fundraiser underway at the high school. Stickers are being sold for .25 and the money collected will be sent to the Haiti Earthquake Relief fund.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda. He introduced his recommendation for District Treasurer, Tish Ruizzo and offered a

brief overview of her employment history.

Member Bollengier made a motion to accept the consent agenda.

Member Rafanelli seconded the motion. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH February 9, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of January 26, 2010

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

- a. Patricia Ruizzo as District Treasurer; Annual Salary \$68,500;
Effective on or about March 1, 2010, contingent upon receipt of
Non-disqualifying Criminal Background Check**

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

- a. Please See Attached List**

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$118,670.71

D. Home School Approvals

1. Reynolds - Jennifer

End Consent Agenda

Member Walsh arrived at this time, (7:12 p.m.)

Correspondence – (1) Youth Art Month Endorsement March 2010; (2) Washington County Regional Planning Council Solar Projects Grant Funds Overview;

(3) January 28, 2010 Letter and Enclosed Flyer to EWG Parents from the Superintendent Regarding Sexual Offender Registration and Community Notification Act; (4) EWGHS School Improvement Team Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2009; (5) EWGHS School Improvement Team Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2010; (6) January 2010 Metcalf School Feinstein Good Deeds Program Newsletter

Monthly Budget Projection 2009 – 2010 – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that as noted in his Monthly Status Report, there is no monthly projection enclosed for February due to impending supplemental budget figure releases from the Governor's office.

Member Rafanelli requested to revert to Correspondence (3) and asked if there has been any response from parents. Superintendent Geismar reported that he only received one response that said, "I do want to be notified". The state police initiated this to Exeter families only. This is the first time this has been implemented.

Budget Update 2010 – 2011 – Chair DeSack said the draft budget and budget summaries enclosed in members' packets are new and

revised and include the sufficiencies the School Committee agreed to. Superintendent Geismar reported that following the

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH February 9, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

February 2 budget workshop, the Governor's supplemental budget figures were released. The District stands to lose \$600,000 in state funding next year. Dr. Geismar said that he and Mr. Ross will review the draft budget tomorrow to determine where cuts can be made in the event of this happening. He said that this type of cut in state aid will have a huge impact on the District's ability to function. Mr. Ross said that the enclosed drafts are the results from the February 2 budget workshop. However, based on the governor's recommended supplemental budget figures, it looks as it sits now, that the School Committee will have to go with the budget summary reflecting a 4.50% increase to the Towns as well as looking to carve out \$300,000 to meet revenue. Chair DeSack said the committee still has quite a few more meetings in place. She asked the committee to look at the budget as it sits now. She asked Mr. Ross to send members sufficiency documents again. There is a Joint Meeting on February 16, and another Budget Workshop and one more additional Joint Meeting forthcoming. At the February 16 Joint Meeting, the School Committee will present the two proposals to the Town Councils. The Committee will move into Executive Session tonight to further discuss this matter. Chair DeSack asked members to keep in mind working in funding for a part-time Grant Writer position as well.

Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Superintendent’s Monthly Status Report.

Business – In response to Member Bollengier’s inquiries, Mr. Ross said that his colleagues that currently run their own buses who have offered bus services for a fee, would do so as a means to generate revenue, and the cost of the repair to the sr. project computer lab is an insured cost and will meet the District’s deductible.

Special Education – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Special Education Monthly Status Report.

Maintenance – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Maintenance Monthly Status Report.

Technology – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Technology Monthly Status Report.

Monthly Subcommittee Report(s) – Town Finance/Charter Review Subcommittee – Member Rafanelli reminded the committee that at the last regular meeting he read five recommendations [from the Town Finance/Charter Review subcommittee] to the School Committee for consideration. He referenced the TFCR subcommittee meeting minutes of January 7, 2010 enclosed in members’ supplemental

packets, and asked if members had sufficient time to review the recommendations or if this item should continue to the next meeting agenda. Member Zuercher requested clarification of the subcommittee minutes regarding adjusting the number of sitting members on the School Committee starting in

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH February 9, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4

the “2010” elections for school committee. Member Rafanelli confirmed that as an error and said the minutes should read, starting with the 2010 Census population for change in the “2012” elections for school committee.

Member Zuercher made a motion to carry this item to the next regular meeting agenda. Vice Chair Cicero seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Chair DeSack asked members to bring this copy of the minutes, along with the budgets, with them to the next scheduled meeting(s) so not to have to recopy these items. Member Bollengier referenced the error on the date in the TFCR meeting minutes and asked if he should resend an edited copy to members. Consensus of the Committee was to keep the enclosed copy and to make the adjustment. Chair DeSack requested that going forward all subcommittee meeting minutes and SIT meeting minutes be posted to the District website for the public to see.

NEW BUSINESS – Approve .5 FTE Special Ed. Teacher Assistant Position to begin in April – Dr. Geismar requested to hire a .5 instructional teacher assistant at the pre-school level to support a student who has a disability. The position will commence in April 2010.

Member Bollengier made a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation to approve a .5 FTE Special Education Teacher Assistant position to begin April 2010. Vice Chair Cicero seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Unfinished Business – Collaborative Tool – Discussion – Director of Administration Robert Ross explained that tonight's PowerPoint presentation will look at Google Apps, Site, and Gmail as a collaborative tool for Jr. – Sr. High students and staff. He explained that currently Google Apps is used at the high school level, although it is running in concert with the district's website, email system, and internal instant messaging through SharePoint. The District struggles with the District email system vs. Gmail options. Tonight's presentation will center on storage and archiving. Dr. Geismar offered further explanation that presently the District has the EWG's email system and some students and teachers at the high school use Gmail instead. He said that it is his belief that all users should use the District email system. He has asked if there is a way to marry the two, and there is. However, it costs money to do so. Dr. Geismar said that

presently some individuals are using Gmail and that is an issue for him because he is uncertain about how stringent the laws are regarding archiving. Technology Administrator David Wright narrated the PowerPoint Presentation - Google Apps, Site, and Gmail: Investigation for Junior & Senior Students/Staff. He talked about the District's obligation to adhere to the Child Internet Protection Act, (CIPA) and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, (COPPA) and RI State Law LG5: Archiving Messages. Mr. Wright reviewed four solutions explored by the District and answered members questions regarding the current email design, account backup, purging, archiving, state

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH February 9, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5

guidelines, Gmail vs. EWG's email system, and costs. In response to Member Walsh's inquiry, Mr. Ross recommended establishing District policy to set up archiving and storage regulations. Chair DeSack told members this is not a School Committee issue and she recommended forming a subcommittee to work with the policy subcommittee to explore why the District is not using Google Apps and if the appropriate backup is in place. In response to Vice Chair Cicero's inquiry, Dr. Geismar said the District is not using Google Apps on a broad scale because of his concerns regarding archiving to meet the laws. He said he would welcome a subcommittee to work with Mr. Searle, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Ross, and Mr. Wright, as he desires a solution. Dr. Geismar said he has not stopped people from using

Google. However, he wants to make sure the District meets regulations. Furthermore, Google is not free if the District is going to archive the email. Member Walsh asked why is Gmail better than the EWG email system. Dr. Geismar said it works well with Google Apps and Mr. Searle says it is more flexible and more powerful than our current system. Mr. Wright reviewed the cost over five-years of Barracuda Archive Solution - \$47,458 to Google - \$72,500. Dr. Geismar reported that Stonington, CT uses Google Solutions and pays per student for archiving. In response to Member Walsh's inquiry, Mr. Wright referred back to page 2 of the presentation, Email with Content Filtering Objectives and said that Gmail is not filtered 100%. It is filtered by Gmail but is not filtered by the District. Chair DeSack directed the policy subcommittee to attend to this matter as a priority task. She said that she will also be involved in the discussion. The policy subcommittee can take the lead; however, the subcommittee can consist of whoever wants to be there. Chair DeSack suggested representatives from the following groups sit with the policy subcommittee to partake in the discussion to establish a policy: IT Department, High School Principal, and Teacher(s). She asked the Superintendent to compile a list of names of individuals interested in working on this. She requested Administration send web addresses regarding CIPA, COPPA, and RI State Law (LG5) to all School Committee members.

Review Approval of Copy Machine Purchase for Sr. High ALP Program – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that the

morning after the School Committee approved the lease/purchase of a copy machine for the Sr. High ALP Program, he learned that the RICOH representative he had been working with was no longer with the company and someone new would be handling the account. He requested the School Committee rescind its vote to approve the lease/purchase of the copy machine.

Member Zuercher made a motion to rescind her motion, which was to approve the copy machine. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Member Bollengier raised a point of order that technically Member Zuercher is not rescinding a vote. Member Zuercher needs to make a new motion to vote exactly the opposite of her original motion.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH February 9, 2010
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6

Member Zuercher made a motion not to purchase the copy machine. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Transportation Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross said he has nothing new to report at this time concerning transportation.

Capital Project Update –Dr. Geismar reported the architect is working

with the contractor to resolve punch list issues. Metcalf School's gymnasium floor repairs will take place during February break.

District Treasurer Search – None

Reports/Comments – None

Important Dates and Meetings – Wednesday, January 13, 2010-Budget Workshop (SPED, Districtwide/Facilities/Athletics, Elementary); Tuesday, January 19, 2010-Budget Workshop (Jr. High, Sr. High); Tuesday, January 26, 2010-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, February 9, 2010-School Committee Meeting; Thursday, February 11, 2010-Joint Meeting; Friday, February 19, 2010-Notice to Canvassers; Tuesday, February 23, 2010-School Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Vice Chair Cicero moved to go into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (2) – CBA – (C-94/TA)-Negotiation Discussion and/or Pending Litigation. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to reconvene to Open Session. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:45 p.m.

A vote was taken during Executive Session to enter into concession bargaining. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Adjournment – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK